

eight billion, seven hundred fifty-six million)

Five years ago, October 22, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$4,062,097,000,000. (Four trillion, sixty-two billion, ninety-seven million)

Ten years ago, October 22, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,384,316,000,000. (Two trillion, three hundred eighty-four billion, three hundred sixteen million)

Fifteen years ago, October 22, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,140,017,000,000 (One trillion, one hundred forty billion, seventeen million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,281,827,508,272.92 (Four trillion, two hundred eighty-one billion, eight hundred twenty-seven million, five hundred eight thousand, two hundred seventy-two dollars and ninety-two cents) during the past 15 years.

#### IMMIGRATION EXTENSION IN THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, I would like to make several comments on the extension of the provision of section 245(I) which is in the continuing resolution we passed today.

This provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act allowed foreign nationals to adjust their status while remaining in this country after either entering the United States illegally or remaining in this country after their visa expired and they became illegal.

Either way, these individuals have entered this country without having respect for our laws or have remained here because of little or no respect for our laws.

On August 22, 1996, this body passed legislation to attempt to enforce stricter penalties against those foreign nationals that arrive in the United States illegally or remain hidden in the workforce illegally after their visas expire. The law we passed required illegal aliens to leave this country and go through the proper channels of immigration from their homeland or remain here and be subject to a 3- or 10-year bar from reentry into our country.

The Illegal Immigration Act of 1996 calls for a mandatory 3-year bar against that illegal alien from entering this country if he or she has remained illegally in this country for 180 days after April 1, 1997.

If he or she remains here for 1 year after April 1, 1997, that bar is 10 years.

It appears in just over 1 year from passing this legislation and just at the time the 180 day timeframe kicks in—now this body is attempting to provide a loophole for illegal aliens to remain in this country with little or no consequence.

I am opposed to this extension. And I will not vote for any legislation that permanently extends the cut off period. What we are doing is rewarding illegal behavior.

I sometimes wonder why we have immigration laws that we do not enforce?

Our immigration policy in this country is a mess. We don't have a policy, because if we make one we make exceptions to it almost immediately. Here we are 1 year later and we are providing extensions already. When is this kind of legislating going to stop?

For as little as \$1,000, someone can remain in this country illegally. This is a small price to pay to enable someone with little regard for our laws to remain in this great country.

Mr. President, what kind of signal does it send to hardworking, law-abiding Americans—that you can come to this country illegally and stay here illegally, for as little as \$1,000.

I think we send the signal that anybody can come to the United States at anytime and stay here for as long as they want.

Maybe I have the answer to the respect for our laws that some noncitizens have. I have also received information from the Bureau of Prisons that in the Federal prison system approximately 26.6 percent of the Federal inmates are not U.S. citizens as of June 1997. To take care of these prisoners is costing U.S. taxpayers \$687 million a year.

By the U.S. Congress extending the ability to adjust status to persons that have little regard for our laws with such little consequence, we are only condoning illegal actions and opening the door to further crime.

Illegal immigrants have put a burden on our Federal system which we cannot sustain and remain solvent. This is wrong. We as a country cannot continue to fix the errors of illegal immigrants. They should be held accountable for their actions.

Mr. President, it is a privilege to be in this great country. We must request all residents, whether citizens or noncitizens, of the United States adhere to our laws. And our message should be consistent.

For these reasons, I am strongly opposed to the extension of 245(I) that is in the continuing resolution. I am further opposed to any effort to make permanent changes to this law that would weaken our immigration policy.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

##### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:47 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution:

S. Con. Res. 56. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony honoring Leslie Townes (Bob) Hope by conferring upon him the status of an honorary veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1534. An act to simplify and expedite access to the Federal courts for injured parties whose rights and privileges, secured by the United States Constitution, have been deprived by final actions of Federal agencies, or other government officials or entities acting under color of State law; to prevent Federal courts from abstaining from exercising Federal jurisdiction in actions where no State law claim is alleged; to permit certification of unsettled State law questions that are essential to resolving Federal claims arising under the Constitution; and to clarify when government action is sufficiently final to ripen certain Federal claims arising under the Constitution.

The message further announced that the House insists upon its amendments to the bill (S. 830) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Public Health Service Act to improve the regulation of food, drugs, devices, and biological products, and for other purposes, and asks a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. BLILY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BARTON, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. BURR, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. KLINK, as the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

##### ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

A message from the House of Representatives, delivered by one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 97. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1998, and for other purposes.

The enrolled joint resolution was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

At 5:59 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1139. An act to reauthorize the programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Appropriations, with an amendment:

S. 1292. A bill disapproving the cancellations transmitted by the President on October 6, 1997, regarding Public Law 105-45.